

Claims

What is claimed:

1. An optical media drive for detecting defects in optical media, the drive comprising:
 - a laser and lens for reading information from an optical media, wherein the laser is directable to an inner ring of the optical media; and
 - a mirror disposed about the inner ring of the optical media that reflects light from the laser back to the lens.
2. The drive of claim 1 wherein the lens provides an electrical signal representative of defect in the inner ring of the optical media.
3. The drive of claim 2 and further comprising:
 - a selector that selects a spin rate for reading data from the optical media based on the signal from the lens.
4. The drive of claim 3 wherein the selector selects the spin rate based on the size of the defect.
5. The drive of claim 4, wherein the defect is a crack, and the size of the defect corresponds to a width and length of the crack.
6. The drive of claim 3 wherein the selector selects the spin rate based on the size and number of defects detected.
7. The drive of claim 1 wherein the laser is controllable to direct laser light incrementally along a radial length of the inner ring of the optical media.
8. The drive of claim 1 wherein the drive is selected from the group consisting of a DVD drive, CD ROM drive, and laser disc drive.

9. A method of detecting a crack in an optical media disc, the method comprising:
directing laser light of an optical media disc drive toward a near side of a transparent inner ring of the optical media disc;
rotating the disc;
receiving reflected laser light from a mirror proximate a far side of the inner ring of the optical media; and
generating a signal from the received reflected laser light.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the mirror extends radially, the length of the transparent inner ring.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein the disc is rotated at a slower rate than a maximum rate of rotation by the disc drive.
12. The method of claim 9 wherein the signal is representative of one or more cracks.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the signal is representative of the severity of the one or more cracks.
14. The method of claim 13 and further comprising selecting a rate of rotation for reading data on the disc based on the signal representative of the severity of the one or more cracks.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein the severity is related to a width or length of a crack.
16. The method of claim 9 wherein the laser light is directed at different areas on the inner ring of the disc to generate signals representative of radial lengths of cracks in the disc.

17. The method of claim 9 wherein beginning rotation of the disc is dependent on detecting a reflection of the laser light.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the laser is directed in incremental steps.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the laser is stopped when a crack is detected.

20. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for causing a computer to execute a method of detecting a crack in an optical media disc, the method comprising:

directing laser light of an optical media disc drive toward a near side of a transparent inner ring of the optical media disc;

rotating the disc;

receiving reflected laser light from a mirror proximate a far side of the inner ring of the optical media; and

generating a signal from the received reflected laser light.

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